and which may contain inorganic counterions, but is not a nitrate group; E is a methylene group and G^1 is a methylene group or does not exist; F^1 is H; and G^2 is R^N-Z^N;

wherein R^N is an organic radical possessing a heteroaryl group containing P or S atoms where said P or S are positioned β, γ, or δ to a nitrate group as identified in formula Ia; and Z^N is W^N_{mm}-X^N_{nn}-Y^N_{oo};

wherein mm, nn, oo are 0 or 1 and W^N, X^N, Y^N are NH, NR^{NN}, CO, O or CH_2;

wherein R^{NN} is a C_1 – C_{12} alkyl group.

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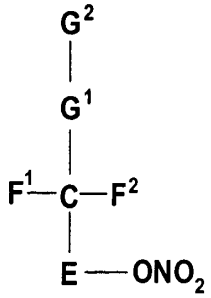
13. (Twice amended) A method for providing sedation, mitigating anxiety or providing anaesthesia in a subject in need thereof, comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of a therapeutic compound, wherein the therapeutic compound is of the formula (Ic):

(Ic)



in which E is $(R^1R^2C)_m$ and G^2–G^1–CF^1F^2– is R^{19}–$(R^3R^4C)_p$–$(R^{17}R^{18}C)_n$–;

wherein: m, n, p are integers from 0 to 10;

$R^{3,17}$ are each independently hydrogen, a nitrate group, or A; and

$R^{1,4}$ are each independently hydrogen, or A;

where A is selected from a substituted or unsubstituted aliphatic group comprising a branched or straight-chain aliphatic moiety having from 1 to 24 carbon atoms in the chain, which optionally may contain O, S, NR^6 and unsaturations in the chain, optionally bearing from 1 to 4 hydroxy, nitrate, amino, aryl, or heterocyclic groups; an unsubstituted or substituted cyclic aliphatic moiety having from 3 to 7 carbon atoms in the aliphatic ring, which optionally may contain O, S, NR^6 and unsaturations in the ring, optionally bearing from 1 to 4 hydroxy, nitrate, amino, aryl, or heterocyclic groups; an unsubstituted or substituted aliphatic moiety constituting a linkage of from 0 to 5 carbons, between R^1 and R^3 and/or between R^{17} and R^4, which optionally may contain O, S, NR^6 and unsaturations in the linkage, and optionally bearing from 1 to 4 hydroxy, nitrate, amino, aryl, or heterocyclic groups; a substituted or unsubstituted aliphatic group comprising a branched,

cyclic or straight-chain aliphatic moiety having from 1 to 24 carbon atoms in the chain, containing carbonyl linkages selected from the group consisting of C=O, C=S, and C=NOH, which optionally may contain O, S, NR^6 and unsaturations in the chain, optionally bearing from 1 to 4 hydroxy, nitrate, amino, aryl, or heterocyclic groups; a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; a heterocyclic group; an amino group selected from alkylamino, dialkylamino, cyclic amino, diamino and triamino moieties, arylamino, diarylamino, and alkylarylamino; hydroxy; alkoxy; a substituted or unsubstituted aryloxy;

wherein X is F, Br, Cl, NO_2, CH_2, CF_2, O, NH, NMe, CN, NHOH, N_2H_3, $N_2H_2R^{13}$, $N_2HR^{13}R^{14}$, N_3, S, SCN, $SCN_2H_2(R^{15})_2$, $SCN_2H_3(R^{15})$, $SC(O)N(R^{15})_2$, $SC(O)NHR^{15}$, SO_3M, SH, SR^7, SO_2M, $S(O)R^8$, $S(O)_2R^9$, $S(O)OR^8$, $S(O)_2OR^9$, PO_2HM, PO_3HM, PO_3M_2, $P(O)(OR^{15})(OR^{16})$, $P(O)(OR^{16})(OM)$, $P(O)(R^{15})(OR^8)$, $P(O)(OM)R^{15}$, CO_2M, CO_2H, CO_2R^{11}, C(O), $C(O)R^{12}$, $C(O)(OR^{13})$, PO_2H, PO_2M, $P(O)(OR^{14})$, $P(O)(R^{13})$, SO, SO_2, $C(O)(SR^{13})$, SR^5, SSR^7 or SSR^5;

10 cont

Y is F, Br, Cl, CH_3, CF_2H, CF_3, OH, NH_2, NHR^6, NR^6R^7, CN, NHOH, N_2H_3, $N_2H_2R^{13}$, $N_2HR^{13}R^{14}$, N_3, S, SCN, $SCN_2H_2(R^{15})_2$, $SCN_2H_3(R^{15})$, $SC(O)N(R^{15})_2$, $SC(O)NHR^{15}$, SO_3M, SH, SR^7, SO_2M, $S(O)R^8$, $S(O)_2R^9$, $S(O)OR^8$, $S(O)_2OR^9$, PO_2HM, PO_3M_2, $P(O)(OR^{15})(OR^{16})$, $P(O)(OR^{16})(OM)$, $P(O)(R^{15})(OR^8)$, $P(O)(OM)R^{15}$, CO_2M, CO_2H, CO_2R^{11}, $C(O)R^{12}$, $C(O)(OR^{13})$, $C(O)(SR^{13})$, SR^5, SSR^7 or SSR^5, or does not exist;

R^2, R^5, R^{18}, R^{19} are optionally hydrogen, A or X-Y;

R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16} are the same or different alkyl or acyl groups containing 1-24 carbon atoms which may contain 1-4 ONO_2 substituents; or C_1 - C_6 connections to R^1 – R^4 in cyclic derivatives which may contain 1-4 ONO_2 substituents; or are each independently hydrogen, a nitrate group or A;

M is H, Na^+, K^+, NH_4^+, $N^+H_kR^{11}{}_{(4-k)}$ where k is 0-3; or other pharmaceutically acceptable counterion;

and with the proviso that when m = n = p = 1 and R^{19}, R^2, R^{18}, R^1 = H and R^{17}, R^3 are nitrate groups, R^4 is not H.

14. (Twice amended) The method of claim 11, wherein F^2 is a nitrate group; and E, F^1, G^1, G^2 are the same or different organic radicals which may be joined in cyclic ring systems, and which may contain inorganic counterions;

with the proviso that when E and G^1 are methylene groups and F^1 is H, G^2 is not a nitrate group, nor R^N-Z^N;

wherein R^N is any aryl or heteroaryl group and Z^N is $(CO)_{mm}$-X^N_{nn}-Y^N_{oo};

wherein mm, nn, oo are 0 or 1 and X^N,Y^N are NH, NR^{NN}, O or CH_2;

wherein R^{NN} is a C_1 – C_{12} alkyl group.

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15. (Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein F^2 is a nitrate group; E and G^1 are methylene groups; F^1 is H; and G^2 is R^N-Z^N;

wherein R^N is an organic radical possessing an heteroaryl group containing P or S atoms where said P or S are positioned β, γ, or δ to a nitrate group as identified in formula Ia; and Z^N is W^N_{mm}-X^N_{nn}-Y^N_{oo};

wherein mm, nn, oo are 0 or 1 and W^N, X^N, Y^N are NH, NR^{NN}, CO, O or CH_2;

wherein R^{NN} is a C_1 – C_{12} alkyl group.

103 24. (Amended) The method of any one of claims 11, 13, 14 or 15, further comprising administering the therapeutic compound with a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

104 26. (Amended) The method of any one of claims 11, 13, 14 or 15, wherein the therapeutic compound modulates levels of the cyclic nucleotides cGMP and/or cAMP in said subject.

105 28. (Amended) The method of any one of claims 11, 13, 14 or 15, wherein the therapeutic compound modulates guanylyl cyclase activity in said subject.

41. (Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein when E and G^1 are independently methylene groups or do not exist and F^1 is H, G^2 is not R^N-Z^N;

wherein R^N is any aryl or heteroaryl group and Z^N is $(CO)_{mm}$-X^N_{nn}-Y^N_{oo};

wherein mm, nn, oo are 0 or 1 and X^N,Y^N are NH, NR^{NN}, O or CH_2;

106 wherein R^{NN} is a C_1 – C_{12} alkyl group.

42. (Amended) The method of claim 41, wherein F^2 is a nitrate group; and E, F^1, G^1, G^2 are the same or different organic radicals which may be joined in cyclic ring systems, and which may contain inorganic counterions;

with the proviso that when E and G^1 are methylene groups and F^1 is H, G^2 is not a nitrate group, nor R^N-Z^N;